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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2011: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2011. It covers the activities of the Division on the analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; the preparation of world population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of the interrelations between population and development; and the monitoring and dissemination of population information. The report also covers other major activities carried out by the Population Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the development agenda at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development provides the subprogramme with intergovernmental guidance.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

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I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme on population. The subprogramme takes account of the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (resolution S-21/2, annex) on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and the outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1). It also responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population (E/2004/25, chap. I, sect. B), as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, the objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the development agenda at the national and international levels (see A/63/6/Rev.1, programme 7, subprogramme 6). The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/64/6 (Sect. 9)), are:

(a) To effectively facilitate review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly and the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic fields related to population and development, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit;

(b) To enhance awareness of the international community of new and emerging population issues and increase knowledge and understanding at the national level, particularly in the areas of fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth, population ageing and the environment;

(c) To improve accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2011, grouped by thematic area, and provides a substantive summary of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet. A list of activities and outputs is presented in the annex.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division issued the *World Fertility Report 2009*,[2] an analysis of fertility trends and their main proximate determinants. The report includes key indicators of fertility, nuptiality, contraceptive use and population policies regarding childbearing for 196 countries or areas, with data points around 1970, around 1995 (shortly after the adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994) and the most recent data. During this period of unprecedented change in reproductive behaviour, total fertility fell in all but 3 of the 185 countries or areas for which data are available for all three time periods. Among developing countries, the median level of total fertility fell by more than half, from 5.7 children per woman in the 1970s to 2.5 children per woman in the most recent period. Nevertheless, major differences in fertility levels persist across countries. For example, while total fertility is below replacement level (2.1 children per woman) in 32 of 102 developing countries or areas with data available for all three periods, it remains above 4.0 children per woman in 10 countries or areas. The *World Fertility Report 2009* includes a comprehensive set of indicators related to childbearing for each country, including time-series data from various sources. The report, country profiles and data for each indicator can be accessed on the Division's website.[3]

7. The Population Division published the wallchart *World Contraceptive Use 2011*[4] showing the latest data available on contraceptive prevalence, method-specific use and unmet need for family planning. The wallchart shows that in 2009 an estimated 63 per cent of women of reproductive age who were married or in a union were using a contraceptive method. Yet universal access to reproductive health is still far from being attained since, in at least 46 countries, 20 per cent or more of the women of reproductive age who are married or in a union have an unmet need for contraception. In the majority of the less developed regions contraceptive prevalence is 50 per cent or more. The major exceptions are sub-Saharan Africa, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, where the estimated levels of contraceptive prevalence are still below 40 per cent. Over half of the 48 countries in sub-Saharan Africa with data available have a level of contraceptive prevalence below 20 per cent.

8. To raise awareness about changes in union formation and the timing of marriage, the Population Division produced the fact sheet "World marriage patterns" (*Population Facts* No. 2011/1). It shows that marriage in adolescence has been declining worldwide but remains high in some countries despite laws setting the

[2] United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/304.

[3] www.unpopulation.org, also accessible through www.un.org/esa/population.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.2.

minimum age for marriage without parental consent at 18 or over. The average age at marriage has been rising around the world for both women and men, and the earlier women marry, on average, the wider the age gap between women and men at the time of marriage.

9. The Population Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is responsible for reporting on three indicators of universal access to reproductive health that are part of the revised framework for tracking progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, namely, contraceptive prevalence (indicator 5.3), the adolescent birth rate (indicator 5.4) and the unmet need for family planning (indicator 5.6). In 2011, the Division produced updated estimates at the global, regional and subregional levels for each of these indicators and provided them, together with the corresponding metadata on definitions and methods of computation, to the Millennium Development Goals database maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Data on these indicators are also available on the Population Division's website.

10. The Population Division continued to participate in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and contributed to various other forums and publications that focused on measuring and monitoring improvements in reproductive health.

11. To improve estimation of trends in contraceptive use, the Population Division initiated work on a model to estimate contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning based on a Bayesian approach, where data from neighbouring countries inform the estimation of country-specific trends. The model will help to address the considerable gaps that exist in empirical data on contraceptive use (nearly two thirds of the 193 countries with data from 1970 to 2010 have a total of less than five observations).

III. Health and mortality

12. The Population Division released a report entitled *Sex Differentials in Childhood Mortality*,[5] the first global review of sex differentials in infant and child mortality produced by the United Nations in over a decade. It uses a greatly expanded database of estimates of child mortality by sex from vital registration, demographic surveys and censuses to provide a longer time series than in previous studies as well as estimates for a greater number of countries. The results of this study highlight the importance of estimating childhood mortality rates separately by sex. In many areas of the world, advances in survival appear to be accruing relatively equitably to girls and boys, in line with the changes in sex differentials expected given changing cause-of-death patterns that accompany mortality decline. In many of the less developed regions, girls' past disadvantage in mortality at ages 1-4 appears to be easing. However, this is not universally the case. In China and India there is evidence that girls are not benefiting as much as boys from the national trends of mortality decline. On the other hand, several countries had findings of an unusually high gender imbalance in infant mortality rates, suggesting a greater than expected degree of male disadvantage in survival. The methodological

[5] United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/314.

developments included in this report are expected to benefit the work of the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation in generating its child mortality estimates by sex.

13. The Population Division released the *World Mortality Report 2007*,[6] which provides a comprehensive set of mortality estimates for the world's countries and their aggregates, along with an inventory of the availability of primary data for the estimation of adult and child mortality at the national level. The report presents levels and trends of selected mortality indicators for 195 countries and areas, including a detailed analysis of the estimated levels and trends of mortality for selected aggregates and at the country level. The report also documents the availability of information relevant to the estimation of child and adult mortality at the national level, which will facilitate future work in this area.

14. As an update to the report, the Division released the *World Mortality Report 2009*,[7] which presents the results of the *2008 Revision* of *World Population Prospects* and provides an overview of levels and trends of mortality since 1950 at the world level, for development groups and major areas. The analysis focuses on country and regional data for selected mortality indicators. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on specific mortality indicators is also discussed for countries seriously affected by the epidemic. To complement this analysis, a number of mortality indicators organized in country profiles together with figures displaying mortality trends for the period 1950-2010 are presented for all countries or areas with 100,000 inhabitants or more in 2009.

15. The Population Division issued the CD-ROM edition of the *World Mortality Report 2011*.[8] The CD-ROM contains estimates of several mortality indicators for 197 countries or areas, covering the period 1950-2010 and consistent with the results of *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*.[9] The CD-ROM also includes an inventory of data sources useful for the analysis of mortality levels and trends.

16. The Population Division published a wallchart entitled *World Mortality 2011*,[10] which presents key indicators of mortality at the global, regional and country levels. The wallchart highlights variations among countries in a number of indicators of mortality: annual deaths; crude death rates; life expectancy at birth by sex; infant mortality; under-five mortality; and probabilities of dying from birth to age 15, from age 15 to age 60 and from birth to age 60. Estimates of mortality are complemented by information related to major causes of death, such as the death rates due to three broad groups of causes, the percentage of deaths from non-communicable diseases occurring before age 60, AIDS deaths and the maternal mortality ratio.

17. The Population Division organized an expert group meeting on the subject "Mortality crises: conflicts, violence, famine, natural disasters and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases" in New York on 14 and 15 November 2011.

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[6] United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/289.

[7] United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/315.

[8] POP/DB/MORT/2011.

[9] Available from the Division's new website, http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm; see para. 50 below.

[10] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.9.

The meeting brought together scholars from, among others, the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, the Harvard School of Public Health, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the London School of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, the International Rescue Committee, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization (WHO). The main objective of the meeting was to review the state of the art with regard to evidence and understanding of crises that cause significant rises in mortality levels and to initiate a discussion on how current knowledge on this issue can inform the preparation of the United Nations mortality estimates. The expert group meeting also considered trends in mortality from non-communicable diseases with the objective of informing assumptions about future mortality trends. The report of the meeting[11] is available from the Population Division website.

18. In 2011, the Population Division contributed to the work of the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose task is to monitor progress made towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4, namely, a reduction of infant and child mortality by two thirds between 1990 and 2015. The Inter-agency Group is led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO; the Population Division and the World Bank are also members. The Division provides input for updating the database on infant and under-five mortality estimates maintained by UNICEF and in 2011 assisted in preparing *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2011*.[12]

19. The Population Division also provided support to WHO for the production of documents related to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. More specifically, the Division provided inputs for the report of the Secretary-General on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (A/66/83) as well as for a brochure entitled "NCDs and MDGs — Success in Synergy".[13]

20. The Population Division released technical paper No. 2011/2 entitled "Mortality estimates from major sample surveys: towards the design of a database for the monitoring of mortality levels and trends", which provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview about data that emanate from surveys and that are used to estimate levels and trends of mortality in childhood and adulthood, especially for developing countries. It defines the type of data that should be extracted from major survey programmes and suggests examples of appropriate tabulations that facilitate the best usage of these data. The paper is available from the Division's website.

IV. International migration

21. The Population Division provided substantive servicing for the informal thematic debate on international migration and development organized by the President of the General Assembly on 19 May 2011. The debate, mandated by General Assembly resolution 63/225, highlighted the progress the international community had made in enhancing the contributions of migration to development and in addressing its negative consequences. At the debate, Member States

[11] ESA/P/WP.221.

[12] Available from www.childinfo.org/files/Child_Mortality_Report_2011.pdf.

[13] Available from www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/ncd_mdg.pdf.

showcased innovative policies and programmes to engage their expatriate communities in the development process, to enhance regional collaboration and consultation and to leverage the use of remittances. Policies to promote circular migration and voluntary return were also presented. The thematic debate acknowledged the useful role of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in fostering cooperation, sharing good practices and promoting a constructive dialogue on international migration and development among Member States, international agencies and civil society. The informal thematic debate served as a step in the preparation for the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held by the General Assembly in 2013.[14]

22. In response to General Assembly resolution 58/208, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue convening meetings to coordinate international migration activities, the Population Division organized the ninth coordination meeting on international migration, which was held in New York on 17 and 18 February 2011.[15] The objectives of the meeting were (a) to examine the development of indicators that measure the contribution of international migration to countries of origin and destination; (b) to exchange information on recent initiatives to build capacities on international migration and development; and (c) to discuss the contribution of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant organizations to intergovernmental processes, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the informal thematic debate on international migration and development to be organized by the President of the General Assembly in May 2011. The meeting was attended by nearly 100 participants, including representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the United Nations Secretariat, the regional commissions, other intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations active in the field of international migration. Also present were invited experts and representatives of States Members of the United Nations. The meeting fostered a productive exchange between representatives of the State-led Global Forum and entities of the United Nations system.

23. In response to a growing demand for disaggregated migration data,[16] the Population Division produced several outputs on the sex and age distributions of international migrants and their implications for migration policy. This work has been supported by a grant from UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Population Division issued the dataset entitled *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex*,[17] which includes estimates and projections of the number of international migrants in the 196 countries or areas with 100,000 inhabitants or more as of mid-2010 for the years 1990, 2000 and 2010. The results indicate that international migrants in developed countries are, on average, older than those in developing countries. In both developing and developed countries, the large majority of international migrants are of working age. In the less developed regions, male migrants significantly outnumber female migrants of working age. In the more developed regions, however, the sex ratio is more balanced. The dataset is

[14] A summary of the thematic debate is contained in document A/65/944.

[15] The proceedings of the ninth coordination meeting on international migration, including the report and contributed papers, are available from www.unmigration.org.

[16] See, for example, General Assembly resolution 64/139.

[17] POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010.

accompanied by documentation summarizing the main trends and including methodological notes. The dataset is available on CD-ROM and accessible through a Web-based database.[18]

24. The Population Division produced a wallchart entitled *The Age and Sex of Migrants 2011*,[19] based on the CD-ROM *Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex*. The wallchart highlights the most recent estimates of the international migrant stock by age for 196 countries. It also includes estimates of the number of female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock by major age group, the international migrant stock as a percentage of the total population by major group, the percentage distribution of international migrants by major age group and estimates of the median age of international migrants.

25. The Population Division issued technical paper No. 2011/1, entitled "International migration in a globalizing world: the role of youth". The paper documents that the propensity to migrate is highest among young people. Youth and young adults, that is, those aged 18 to 29, are the most mobile among people of all ages as the decision to migrate is often linked to important life transitions. The paper discusses the main reasons for the migration of youth and young adults, including employment, education, family formation and reunification as well as conflict and persecution.

26. The Population Division issued the dataset entitled *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision*,[20] which contains annual data on inflows and, where available, outflows and net flows of international migrants by country of previous or next residence. The *2010 Revision* presents datasets for 43 countries, 14 countries more than in the 2008 revision of the same dataset. The increase in the number of countries covered by this publication indicates the progress made in compiling and disseminating data on international migration flows. The *2010 Revision* was produced in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The dataset is accompanied by documentation with detailed information on national definitions, data sources and criteria used to identify immigration and emigration flows. The dataset is available on CD-ROM and accessible through a Web-based database.[21]

27. The Population Division published the *International Migration Report 2009: A Global Assessment*.[22] This report analyses the sex and age of the global migrant stock, discusses recent trends in international migration flows, presents information on the ratification of international instruments related to international migration and summarizes key trends in global net migration estimates and projections. The publication also includes country and regional profiles bringing together various migration- and development-related indicators, including information on the size and changes in the migrant stock, refugees, remittances and the projected population according to the United Nations medium variant with and without migration.

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[18] http://esa.un.org/MigAge/.

[19] United Nations publication, Sales No. 12.XIII.2.

[20] POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010.

[21] www.unmigration.org.

[22] ST/ESA/SER.A/316, available from www.unmigration.org.

28. The Population Division collaborated in various activities organized under the auspices of the Global Migration Group.[23] It participated in the symposium "Migration and youth: harnessing opportunities for development", which was organized by UNICEF, in its capacity as chair of the Group, in New York on 17 and 18 May 2011. As co-convener of the Group's Working Group on Data and Research, the Population Division contributed to several thematic meetings organized by the chair-in-office, Switzerland, of the 2011 Global Forum for Migration and Development in preparation for the concluding debate at the Global Forum.

29. The Population Division continued to provide support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, who acts as the main link between the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the United Nations. This work was supported through a grant generously provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

30. The website www.unmigration.org maintained by the Population Division focuses exclusively on international migration. It serves as a portal with links to the numerous international migration activities, both within and outside the United Nations system, closely related to the work of the Division. In particular, it includes links and references to the activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group.

V. World population estimates and projections

31. The preparation of the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the work of the Population Division. The results of this activity are used throughout the United Nations system by all entities requiring population data. In addition, the official United Nations population estimates and projections are distributed as part of widely used databases accessible over the Internet, including the World Development Indicators database maintained by the World Bank; the data portal of the United Nations, UNDATA, maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and FAOSTAT, the statistics database maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Several commercial database services also redistribute the Division's work, under agreements with the Department of Public Information.

32. In 2011, the Population Division issued the results of the *2010 Revision* of *World Population Prospects*. Outputs presenting the results of the *2010 Revision* include an interactive online database accessible through the Division's website, one CD-ROM,[24] two DVDs[25] and other supporting material.[26] In preparing the *2010 Revision*, particular attention was given to the production of detailed documentation

[23] For details, see www.globalmigrationgroup.org/.

[24] *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision: Comprehensive Dataset* (CD-ROM) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.8).

[25] *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision: Extended Dataset* (DVD) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.7); *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision: Special Aggregations* (DVD) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.12) (forthcoming).

[26] "Assumptions underlying the *2010 Revision*", available from http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Documentation/pdf/WPP2010_ASSUMPTIONS_AND_VARIANTS.pdf; and Highlights and Advance Tables, working paper No. ESA/P/WP.220, vol. 1 — Comprehensive Tables (ST/ESA/SER.A/313) and vol. 2 — Demographic Profiles (ST/ESA/SER.A/317), available from http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Documentation/publications.htm.

on the data sources and definitions used at the country level. The full metadata compiled in this regard are accessible on the Population Division's website. The site also includes useful figures and maps illustrating the results obtained.

33. The *2010 Revision* of *World Population Prospects* confirmed that the current world population is close to 7 billion. This information was used by UNFPA and many international organizations and media to raise awareness of population issues in the 7 Billion Actions campaign launched on 31 October 2011. The Division contributed extensively to this effort, including through the preparation of a demographic "dashboard" and participation in a Facebook and Twitter conversation on the topic "Reproductive health and rights: the facts of life", which was organized by the Communications and Information Management Service of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. One important campaign message derived from the *2010 Revision* was that small variations in fertility can produce major differences in the size of populations over the long term. The high projection variant, where fertility increases to one-half child over the medium projection variant, produces a world population of 10.6 billion in 2050 and 15.8 billion in 2100.

34. The *2010 Revision* was the first revision of *World Population Prospects* that used a probabilistic model to derive the future path of fertility in the medium variant. The model assumes an initial distribution of its stochastic component, which is modified later on the basis of information on past fertility trends. In this process, account is taken of past fertility trends in a given country plus the past experience of all other countries in the world. The model was used to generate 100,000 trajectories for future fertility for each country and the median values of those trajectories determined the fertility path used in the medium variant. The model incorporated the additional assumption that, over the long term, replacement-level fertility would be reached (a level which, in low-mortality countries, is close to 2.1 per child per woman). The Population Division cooperated with researchers from the University of Washington and the University of Singapore to develop the Bayesian hierarchical model that was used in the probabilistic fertility projections.

35. During 2011, the Population Division worked on the preparation of the *2011 Revision* of *World Urbanization Prospects*, which is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2012. The revision will present estimates and projections of urban and rural populations for 231 countries and areas (including South Sudan), as well as major urban agglomerations. *World Urbanization Prospects* is the only global dataset with estimates and projections for urban areas and urban agglomerations and these are used widely throughout the United Nations system and beyond.

VI. Population policies

36. In 2011, the Division worked on updating country information on Government views and policies on population-related topics for the forthcoming *2011 Revision* of *World Population Policies*. Issued every two years, *World Population Policies* is the most comprehensive overview of population-related policies for all States Members and non-members of the United Nations and thus an essential tool for monitoring progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and other related internationally agreed development goals. For the current revision, several new policy variables have been added to the database covered under the following

themes: population size and growth; population age structure; fertility; reproductive health and family planning; health and mortality; spatial distribution and internal migration; and international migration.

37. The Division published a wallchart entitled *World Abortion Policies 2011*[27] which provides up-to-date and objective information on abortion policies, that is, legal grounds on which induced abortion is permitted, for each of 192 Member and 3 non-member States of the United Nations. The wallchart also includes information on national estimates of the abortion rate, fertility rate, maternal mortality ratio, level of contraceptive use, unmet need for family planning and Government support for family planning, as well as regional estimates of unsafe abortion. The wallchart shows that while the trend has been towards expanding the grounds on which abortion is permitted, abortion laws and regulations are significantly more restrictive in developing countries than in developed countries. For instance, 80 per cent of developed countries allow abortion for economic or social reasons and 69 per cent allow it on request. In contrast, only 19 per cent of developing countries allow abortion for economic or social reasons and 16 per cent do on request.

38. The Division also published a wallchart entitled *World Fertility Policies 2011*[28] which provides up-to-date information on Government views and policies on the level of fertility, including adolescent fertility, and fertility-related factors, such as legal age for marriage and support for family planning, for 192 Member and 3 non-member States of the United Nations. For countries where the Government has a stated policy to raise the level of fertility, the wallchart notes the specific measures adopted to do so. The wallchart also includes information on estimates of total and adolescent fertility, contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning. It shows that the level of fertility is considered too high by about one half of the Governments of developing countries, almost all of them having policies to lower fertility. On the other hand, 55 per cent of the Governments of developed countries have policies to raise fertility. The wallchart also shows that the legal age for marriage with parental consent remains low in many countries and that adolescent fertility is a major concern in a majority of countries.

39. As part of its monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and other internationally agreed development goals, the Division launched in 2008 the Tenth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. Between 1963 and 2003, nine inquiries among Governments were conducted. These surveys record Government views and policies on various key aspects of population and development and are a unique tool for documenting how such views and policies have changed over the last half-century. The Tenth Inquiry was distributed to all permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and was made available in printed form, electronically and via the Internet with a view to facilitating the work of Member States in replying to the survey. As at December 2011, only 48 countries (25 per cent of all Member States) had responded to the Inquiry despite repeated efforts to obtain responses. The results of the Inquiry have been incorporated into the biennial revisions of *World Population Policies*.

40. Over the years, the Division has accumulated a wealth of information on a wide range of population policies. However, the electronic storage and organization

[27] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.4.

[28] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.5.

of those resources has been limited, thus restricting the utilization of the information. In order to improve access to those resources, the Division began in 2009 to work on a new database to organize and store the information available with a view to making it more easily accessible and amenable to analysis. In the past year, the work on the development of the software for the new population policy database was completed and immediately put to use for the 2011 update of *World Population Policies*.

VII. Population and development

41. The Population Division worked on the preparation of the report entitled *World Population Ageing 2011*, which is intended to serve as a basis for activities undertaken in follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing and, in particular, as input to the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, scheduled to take place during 2012 and 2013. As in previous editions, the report will provide information on and analysis of demographic trends on ageing and selected socio-economic topics related to the older population; additionally, in the 2011 edition, new sections on residential arrangements of older persons, the sources of economic support of older persons and the prevalence of poverty in old age will be included.

42. The Division published a CD-ROM entitled *World Population Ageing 2011: Profiles of Ageing*,[29] which provides detailed data for 196 countries and areas organized by major regions of the world on 16 demographic and socio-economic indicators related to the older population, spanning the period 1950-2050.

43. The Division also published version 6.0 of its database *Population, Resources, Environment and Development* (PRED), which contains data on 154 variables relevant for the analysis of the interactions between demographic, environmental and economic indicators, for 230 countries or areas.

44. In preparation for the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Population Division organized an expert group meeting on adolescents and youth and development (New York, 21 and 22 July 2011), which brought together 30 specialists from different regions of the world as well as representatives of United Nations system entities and permanent missions in New York. Topics included the demographic dynamics of adolescents and youth, including fertility and family formation, youth health and mortality; sex education and family planning for young people; and youth and socio-economic development, including education, employment, transition to adulthood and economic independence and intergenerational issues related to youth.

45. The Population Division published a wallchart entitled *Rural Population, Development and the Environment 2011*,[30] and another entitled *Urban Population, Development and the Environment 2011*,[31] with selected indicators for 196 countries or areas of all the major regions of the world. This set of twin publications contains information on and brief analyses of the linkages between the population

[29] POP/DB/WPA/Rev.2011.

[30] United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.10; also available as a pdf document from www.unpopulation.org.

[31] United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.11; also available as a pdf document from www.unpopulation.org.

distribution in urban and rural areas and key development and environment variables, covering issues that, beyond their general interest, also have particular relevance for the preparatory activities for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The data contained in the wallcharts include, for the rural areas, size and rate of growth of the rural population, size of the agricultural population, agricultural area and cropland, forest area, irrigated areas, access to improved water and sanitation, economically active population in agriculture and fertilizer use; and for the urban areas, size and rate of growth of the urban population, land area occupied by human settlements, urban population living in slums, access to improved water and sanitation, carbon dioxide emissions, concentrations of particulate matter in the air, employment in industry and services, gross domestic product, motor vehicles in use and consumption of energy.

VIII. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

46. The report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the annual session of the Commission on Population and Development is prepared by the Population Division. The report (E/CN.9/2011/3) to the forty-fourth session of the Commission in 2011 was devoted to the theme of fertility, reproductive health and development.

47. The Division also presented to the Commission the biennial report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2011/6), which discussed the implications of different fertility trends for population growth and population ageing over the next three centuries, based on six different scenarios. The results of that exercise underscored the importance of reaching replacement-level fertility in all countries of the world in order to avoid unsustainable increases or decreases of the population, providing a rationale for addressing current population imbalances and reinforcing policies that foster fertility reductions in countries where fertility is still above replacement level.

48. In 2011 the Division initiated work on the report the Secretary-General on the special theme of the forty-fifth session of the Commission, "Adolescents and youth".[32]

B. Dissemination of population information and data

49. During 2011, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website in order to provide access to timely population information to Government officials and civil society. The Population Division's website contains all publications issued by the Division, which are often posted well in advance of their availability in printed form. In addition, the website contains items that are available only via the Internet, including highlights, key findings, papers presented at meetings and interactive databases. The site also contains a full collection of the documents and statements before the Commission on Population and Development

[32] To be issued as document E/CN.9/2012/4.

at its sessions. Traffic statistics indicate that in 2011 the Division's website was visited by about 3,300 users per day, generating over 1.2 million page views for the year. In addition, queries to the various online databases of the Population Division, which are not included in the traffic statistics, could easily double those figures.

50. To improve dissemination of results, a new website, http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/index.htm, was developed for *World Population Prospects*, with expanded and reorganized contents and a more user-friendly interface. Users can download data directly into Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and use an interactive tool to create custom charts and data tables sorted by various demographic indicators for all countries of the world. The website also contains a wide range of methodological background information, such as analytical charts and the results of probabilistic fertility projections. According to Google Analytics data, the contents of this directory alone were visited some 435,000 times in 2011, generating over 1.2 million unique page views.

51. As mentioned above, the Population Division also maintains a website (www.unmigration.org) that serves as portal with its own alias focusing exclusively on international migration activities.

52. The Population Division continued to use its e-mail announcement service to alert subscribers to important news, events and developments concerning the Division's activities. The service currently has over 2,000 subscribers from all over the world. In addition, information on the Division's activities as well as publications of particular relevance to developing countries are distributed regularly to persons and institutions included in different mailing lists. In 2011, work began on the migration of the Population Division e-mail alerts service to a more advanced mailing list management system, better integrated with the communications infrastructure of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It is expected that this will lead to more vigorous growth of the number of subscribers.

53. MORTPAK for Windows, the Population Division's software package for demographic estimation, continues to be distributed among analysts, including those in developing countries who use it for teaching or research purposes. It is regularly featured in training workshops organized by the United States Census Bureau for statisticians and demographers in developing countries.

IX. Technical cooperation

54. The Population Division continued to play a role in building and strengthening capacity in developing countries to analyse the demographic information needed to guide the formulation and implementation of population policy, although the scope of its action in this area was constrained by the lack of a dedicated post for technical cooperation.

55. The Division worked closely with intergovernmental and civil society organizations in order to build national capacities in the area of migration data and research. The Division continued to collaborate with the United Nations regional commissions in implementing the development account project aimed at strengthening national capacities to maximize development benefits of migration and to address its negative impacts. The Population Division made a presentation entitled "International migration and development in Asia and the Pacific: key

issues and recommendations for action" at an interregional workshop hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Beirut from 28 to 30 June 2011. The Division also made a presentation at a workshop organized by three regional commissions in Geneva on 22 and 23 September. Lastly, the Division collaborated with ECE and UNFPA in organizing a regional workshop on migration statistics, held in Antalya, Turkey, on 26 and 27 October. At the invitation of the Ramphal Commission on Migration and Development, the Division made a presentation on international migration and development at the United Nations at a meeting held in Kingston on 23 and 24 February. The Division also participated in the Third International Forum on Migration and Peace, organized by the Scalabrini International Migration Network in Mexico City on 20 and 21 October. Lastly, the Division made a presentation on the use of population censuses for migration analysis at the third Needs Assessment Conference on Census Analysis in Asia, organized by UNFPA in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 25 November.

56. The Population Division participated in the international seminar "Population estimates and projections: methodologies, innovations and estimation of target population applied to public policies", organized by the Latin American Population Association in cooperation with the National School of Statistical Science of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 9 to 11 November 2011. The seminar's main purpose was to provide demographic experts from Latin America with methodological information concerning the preparatory process for *World Population Prospects*, to discuss methodological and data-related challenges concerning Latin America and to provide technical assistance to demographers of the region. The Division participated in a seminar at the Centre for Global Health Research in Toronto, Canada, on issues, challenges and findings in reconstructing mortality patterns by age and sex for five South-Asian countries since 1950 (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives) (15 and 16 September 2011); and in the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America (31 March-2 April 2011), presenting a paper entitled "Modifying the Lee-Carter method to project mortality changes up to 2100" and a poster, "Probabilistic projections of urbanization for all countries". The Division also participated in several technical meetings, including a review meeting organized by ICF Macro, based in Calverton, Maryland, United States of America, on the final report of the *Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010* (17 and 18 August 2011); and an ad hoc technical advisory group meeting organized by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean to review the *Afghanistan Mortality Survey 2010* in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (25 and 26 April 2011).

57. The Population Division initiated the implementation of the Development Account project, "Strengthening capacity of national policy analysts in the social and economic sectors of developing countries in the production and use of national transfer accounts", in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. The project aims to improve national capacity in the production and analysis of national transfer accounts in developing countries for the documentation and assessment of the socio-economic implications of changing population age structures. The information produced and the capacity built will help to better inform policy formulation and actions to adapt to the consequences of demographic ageing and to monitor the living conditions of different generational groups, including children and the

elderly. In the context of this project, the Division organized and conducted an expert group meeting on strengthening capacity in the production and use of national transfer accounts in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on 6 and 7 December 2011. The meeting brought together 14 international experts to discuss the contents of the draft *National Transfer Accounts Manual* and the best way to present them for self-study and training purposes. The presentations and discussions at the meeting will provide expert input for the preparation of the final version of the manual.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2011)[a]

Expert group meetings

Ninth coordination meeting on international migration, New York, 17 and 18 February 2011

Adolescents and youth and development, New York, 21 and 22 July 2011

Mortality crises: violence, famine, natural disasters and the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, New York, 14 and 15 November 2011

Research studies

World Fertility Report 2009 (ST/ESA/SER.A/304)

Sex Differentials in Childhood Mortality (ST/ESA/SER.A/314)

World Mortality Report 2007 (ST/ESA/SER.A/289)

World Mortality Report 2009 (ST/ESA/SER.A/315)

International Migration Report 2009: A Global Assessment (ST/ESA/SER.A/316)

Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development: An International Perspective (ESA/P/WP/233)

Databases

World Contraceptive Use 2010 (POP/DB/CP/Rev.2010)

Database on World Mortality (POP/DB/MORT/2011)

World Population Ageing 2011: Profiles of Ageing (POP/DB/WPA/Rev.2011)

International Migration Flows To and From Selected Countries: The 2010 Revision (POP/DB/MIG/Flow/Rev.2010)

Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Age and Sex (POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2010)

PRED 2011: *Population, Resources, Environment and Development — Version 6.0* (POP/DB/PD/PRED/2011)

World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision — Extended data sets (DVD) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.7)

World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision (CD-ROM) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.8)

World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision — Special Aggregations (DVD) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.12)

[a] Excluding reports issued as parliamentary documentation.

Wallcharts

World Contraceptive Use 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.2)

World Abortion Policies 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.4)

World Fertility Policies 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.5)

World Population 2010 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.6) (forthcoming)

World Mortality 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XIII.9)

Rural Population, Development and the Environment 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.10)

Urban Population, Development and the Environment 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.XIII.11)

The Age and Sex of Migrants 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 12.XIII.2)

Technical papers series

"International migration in a globalizing world: the role of youth" (technical paper No. 2011/1)

"Mortality estimates from major sample surveys: towards the design of a database for the monitoring of mortality levels and trends" (technical paper No. 2011/2)

"Seven billion and growing: the role of population policy in achieving sustainability" (technical paper No. 2011/3)

Policy briefs

"World marriage patterns", Population Facts, No. 2011/1